IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph J. Karniewicz   Examiner: Phan, T.

Serial No.:   09/031,326   Group Art Unit: 2763

Filed: February 26, 1998   Docket: 303.376US1

Title: PARAMETER POPULATION OF CELLS OF A HIERARCHICAL
               SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURE VIA FILE RELATION

(stamp: FEB 15 2000 — PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE — JC56)

(margin stamps: FEB 22 2000 — BY MAIL ROOM — RECEIVED)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on November 10, 1999. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show labels of functional blocks as described in the specification such as in Figs. 1, 3, and 4.

Applicant has submitted herewith copies of the drawings with proposed changes marked in red which will, upon allowance of the application and approval of the changes be made to the formal drawings.

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on November 10, 1999, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 through 25 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C.§102

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ahmed (U.S. Patent No. 5,455,938).

The cited Ahmed patent relates to a machine instruction generator automatically for generating a diagnostic program of processor instructions for design verification. It generates a series of diagnostic instructions by traversing sites on a network, each of which has a "local state" corresponding to a group of related machine instructions. A sequence of processor instructions for diagnostic testing is generated by selecting a site on the network, randomly